COMMUNITY

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EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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SPORTS

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Tribunal Comunitario: Faro de Justicia en Detroit

Por Máxima Oxholm Barraza

El Centro de Justicia Comunitaria del Suroeste de Detroit (SWDCJC, por sus siglas en inglés) es el primer tribunal comunitario en Detroit y el único en Michigan. Este tribunal comunitario tiene como objetivo aumentar la confianza pública en el sistema judicial, reducir el crimen y las encarcelaciones, y mejorar la calidad de vida de los residentes.

Fundado en 2013, el SWDCJC trabaja con personas acusadas de delitos menores y no violentos cometidos en los códigos postales 48209, 48210, 48216 y 48217. Este programa permite a los infractores devolver a la comunidad mediante servicio comunitario visible, como cubrir ventanas de casas abandonadas, limpiar parques locales y barrer las calles, como una alternativa a multas elevadas o tiempo en la cárcel.

Bajo la dirección de la CEO LaNeice Jones, la organización ofrece a las personas la oportunidad de llevar a cabo sus audiencias y resolver sus infracciones dentro de la comunidad en lugar de asistir al tribunal 36th Distritc Court del centro de Detroit. Los infractores pueden optar por pasar por el proceso judicial tradicional, que puede permanecer en su historial, o participar en el programa y potencialmente borrar su infracción.

"Al incorporar principios de justicia procesal, los tomadores de decisiones permanecen neutrales, justos y compasivos, tratando a los acusados con dignidad y respeto", dijo Jones.

Muchos participantes enfrentan dificultades que contribuyen a delitos, incluyendo problemas de salud mental, violencia doméstica, falta de vivienda, desempleo y trata de personas. Para combatir esto, el centro ofrece servicios integrales para evitar la reincidencia abordando esos retos.

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From left, Carmensita Buentello Clinical Case Manager, James Phillips Community Service Coordinator and LaNeice Jones Chief Executive Officer of the SWDCJC. Photo provided by Luciana Vega

Community Court: Detroit's Beacon of Justice

By Máxima Oxholm Barraza

The Southwest Detroit Community Justice Center is the first community court in Detroit and the only one in Michigan. This community court aims to increase public trust in the justice system while reducing crime and incarcerations while improving residents' quality of life.

Founded in 2013, the SWDCJC works with people accused of low-level, non-violent offenses committed in ZIP codes 48209, 48210, 48216, and 48217. This program allows offenders to give back to the community through visible community service such as boarding up vacant homes, cleaning local parks, and sweeping the streets as an alternative to hefty fines or jail time.

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Strangers No Longer to Celebrate International Day of the Migrant

Strangers No Longer, a parish-based Catholic organization providing support and advocacy for immigrants in Michigan, will hold a special Mass and procession on Sunday, September 29 celebrating the diversity of nationalities in our region. The event will be held at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Detroit with a procession of hundreds of people representing many ethnic nationalities and area high school students, beginning at 2:40 p.m. The Mass will follow at 3:30 p.m.

"We are inviting everyone in our community to attend this celebration, held on the 110th Day of Prayer for Migrants and Refugees," said Rev. David Buersmeyer, a senior priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit and a co-founder of Strangers No Longer. "Catholics, people of all faiths, immigrants, allies and advocates of Jesus' call to 'welcome the stranger' – all are welcome."

This is the first time in its seven-year history that members, supporters and advocates for immigrants have gathered in such a large religious setting.

"The Cathedral is the headquarters of the Catholic Church in Michigan," said Rev. Buersmeyer. "We will have participants from most major Michigan cities, all coming together to express support for undocumented residents and recognize the importance of diversity in our society."

Rev. Buersmeyer further explained that immigration has become a controversial issue, with much focus on border control. "Jesus Christ and his parents were migrants who had to leave their home country to escape political persecution. Catholic Church doctrine teaches us that we must welcome the migrant and treat him or her the way we want to be treated." In most worldwide cultures there is something we call 'The Golden Rule.' We must practice this."

A brief description of events follows:

- 2:40 p.m. The Walk Celebrating Diversity begins. Two processions, led by high school leaders, will march in circular paths on the Cathedral property for about one-half mile, entering the building at the front entrance. Marchers will carry posters and parish banners, identifying the local Circles of Support from throughout Michigan.
- 2:40 p.m. Cathedral front entrance porch. Cristo Rey of Lansing Choir; Ste. Anne de Detroit Marimba Band; the Ugandan Catholic Community of Michigan Choir. Stations presented by high school students with posters about what is happening around the world. Many visuals to see, especially for those attending, but not marching.
- 3:30 p.m. Celebration of Diversity Mass begins. African-American Choir (Sacred Heart Parish, Detroit); the Ugandan Choir and Drums, the combined choir of Ste. Anne Choir (Detroit) and Cristo Rey Choir (Lansing). Aztec Matachine Procession (Holland). Mass prayers and scripture readings will be said in many languages. The offertory procession will include representatives of many cultures – providing symbols of struggle and hope. Many sacred sounds and visuals will be available.

The Cathedral of the Sacred Heart is at 9844 Woodward Avenue, Detroit. Located north of Midtown Detroit, near Boston-Edison historic neighborhood. Free, guarded parking is available on the cathedral property. If needed, on-street parking is nearby.

Strangers No Longer high school and parish Circles of Support bless immigrants and each other at a recent gathering. Photo provided by Strangers No Longer

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Michigan Central Announces Guided Tours, Yellow Light Coffee as its First Retail Tenant

Following a summer celebration that saw 167,000 visitors enjoy free self-guided tours of the revitalized Michigan Central Station, details were announced today on how the public can continue to see the historic landmark going forward, as well as news about the building's first restaurant in four decades.

Guided tours

Guided tours are being offered in partnership with Detroit History Tours, which has been sharing the rich history of the Motor City with more than 200,000 people over 12 years. Experts will offer inside anecdotes from the building's restoration and guide visitors all over the historic Station's ground floor, including areas not accessible to the general public. Personal photography is welcomed.

"Detroit History Tours is honored to be powering tours of The Station," said Bailey Sisoy-Moore, the Hamtramck-based company's owner. "From The Station's legendary past to its exciting future, we are excited to share this landmark's story with the world."

Unlike the tours over the summer, tickets will be required for the experience. Options are available for not only individuals but private tours for larger groups. More information, including accessibility, pricing, hours, parking and photography policies, is available at www.michigancentral.com/visit.

Yellow Light Coffee & Donuts coming this fall

Later this year, Yellow Light Coffee & Donuts — a beloved, locally owned favorite on Detroit's east side — will open in The Station's historic retail arcade. The coffee shop will become the first food-and-beverage tenant in The Station since the building's closure in 1988. It will be located immediately off The Station's east entrance, and offer take-out and dine-in options daily, with more information on hours to come.

Yellow Light opened as a drive-thru in 2020 in Detroit's Jefferson Chalmers neighborhood and quickly became a morning staple for eastsiders. It was co-founded by In-Laws Hospitality owners Christine and Jacques Driscoll, and outside partner Niko Dimitrijevic, and is the sister restaurant of the Driscolls' other city dining institutions, Green Dot Stables and Johnny Noodle King.

"Offering our in-house roasted coffee, scratch-made doughnuts and biscuit sandwiches to Corktown and Southwest is beyond exciting for our growth in Detroit," said Christine Driscoll. "We're also humbled that we will be part of this newest chapter in The Station's history starting this fall."

The coffee shop is hiring for The Station location, and interested applicants can send their resume to hr@inlawshospitality.com.

167,000 visitors … and counting

The Labor Day weekend marked the conclusion of Michigan Central's free Summer at the Station celebration, which brought thousands of visitors each weekend to tour the revitalized Michigan Central Station and learn about the building's history, restoration and next chapter through OPEN exhibits. Since reopening in June, The Station has welcomed 167,000 visitors through its doors over 32 days of being open to the public, exceeding expectations and solidifying Michigan Central as a cultural destination in Detroit.

"We are so humbled by the outpouring of support and excitement from the community that came to explore The Station this summer and share in this new beginning," said Joshua Sirefman, CEO of Michigan Central. "To those who have traveled near and far, your support is instrumental as we continue to breathe new life into this iconic landmark and build a brighter future for Detroit around it."

After a six-year restoration by Ford Motor Company that saw more than 3,100 skilled tradesmen and women work a combined 1.7 million hours, Michigan Central Station officially reopened its doors for the first time in nearly four decades in June. Following its grand reopening celebration, The Station hosted a three-month free open house, which attracted more than 167,000 visitors over the course of the summer. These experiences featured an array of historic exhibits and cultural activations including more than 60 live performances from Detroit musical acts and a rotating selection of 25 food trucks that reported more than $90,000 in sales for those local businesses.

As the centerpiece of Michigan Central's 30-acre innovation and cultural district — where leaders, thinkers, communities and creators come together to build solutions that shape our collective future — The Station will support growth and opportunity in Detroit's future. It will accommodate larger tenants and established companies, attract and retain technology talent, and draw in diverse businesses. Its first tenants, Detroit youth in Google's Code Next program, have already moved into their offices on The Station's fifth floor. The program helps Detroit high school students pursue careers in tech and will help develop a pipeline of diverse talent for Michigan tech startups and established companies alike. Ford Motor Co. employees are up next to begin moving into three floors of The Station this fall.

For more information on The Station's history, restoration, and next chapter, visit https://michigancentral.com/a-new-beginning-ford-to-reopen-michigan-central-station-after-multi-year-historic-restoration/.

About Michigan Central

Michigan Central is a 30-acre technology and cultural hub in Detroit, where leaders, thinkers, communities, and creators come together to accelerate bold ideas and technologies that shape our collective future. By providing access to world-class infrastructure, tools, and resources, Michigan Central inspires innovators and community members to collaborate on real, ground-breaking solutions to global problems. Since opening in April 2023, Michigan Central has grown into a diverse ecosystem of more than 600 employees from over 100 companies and startups working at the intersection of mobility and society. Learn more at www.Michigan Central.com.

Crowds often wound around the building this past summer for the opportunity to tour the renovated Michigan Central. Photo credit Stephanie Rhoades Humes, Michigan Central

(for picture on left)
For more information or tickets, please visit: https://www.detroithistorytours.com/michigan-central-tours

Yellow Light Coffee & Donuts will be moving into Michigan Central this fall

The Fraga Family Tree-Keeping an Oral History Alive

By: Ozzie Rivera

The extended Fraga family has been true to keeping their family's story alive. For a number of decades elder members of the extended family have been carefully building a rich collection of video and audio recordings that document their family's history, starting when in 1919 their grandparents Valeriano and Martina Fraga left Mexico going first to Texas then Michigan. This protracted project culminated in a milestone event when their documentary film, Michoacan to Michigan, debuted at the Detroit Institute of Arts' Film Theatre Sunday October 19, 2019. The film showing celebrated the 100 years of their family's history in Michigan. Immediately it was hailed as a significant achievement and has contributed greatly to documenting the Mexican American experience in Michigan.

In a recent interview with cousins Len Radjewski and Ralph Valdez, both members of the extended Fraga family, Ralph mentioned that so many in the audience came up to them after the showing and emotionally expressed how motivating it was for them to see the film and often recounted their own families' stories of migration/immigration. Len and Ralph experienced a similar response when the film was shown at the Saginaw Art Museum.

Ralph Valdez, whom I have known and worked with in several cultural ventures, notably the annual Concert of Colors, is Underwriting Representative for Detroit's Public Radio WDET 101.9. Len Radjewski is a freelance media producer who took the lead in producing the documentary. He taught film production in a number of Huron Valley area schools before retiring.

Family members also developed a website which further elaborates on their collective story. It can be viewed at www.thefragafamily.com. I enjoyed exploring the website and found it to be well organized, comprehensive and quite an educational experience. In addition to telling the Michigan story, extended family members in Michoacan, Mexico are also featured. Over the decades the two sides of the family have maintained contact, which has only strengthened in more recent years due to the release of the film. The family, to their credit, update it on a regular basis. It is no exaggeration to say it serves as a model for others to emulate.

Daniel Fraga, Valeriano and Martina Fraga's youngest son, also wrote a book with the same title further enhancing this documentation. Mexican cousins Lara Eugenio Solís Chávez and her husband, José Mendoza Lara, university history professors, authors and publishers in Morelia provided the Spanish translation found in the bilingual book.

Starting in the 1970's a number of family members, most notably uncles Daniel and Martin Fraga as well as cousin Ed Fraga, carefully conducted bilingual video and audio interviews with the founding patriarchs, Martina (Herrejon) and Valeriano Fraga. They interviewed them on reel-to-reel audiotapes, capturing their stories-in Spanish and English. Other family members contributed home movies, photographs, official documentation and written recollections to the documentary and website. This marked a new phase in the already existing tradition of sharing oral history within the family.

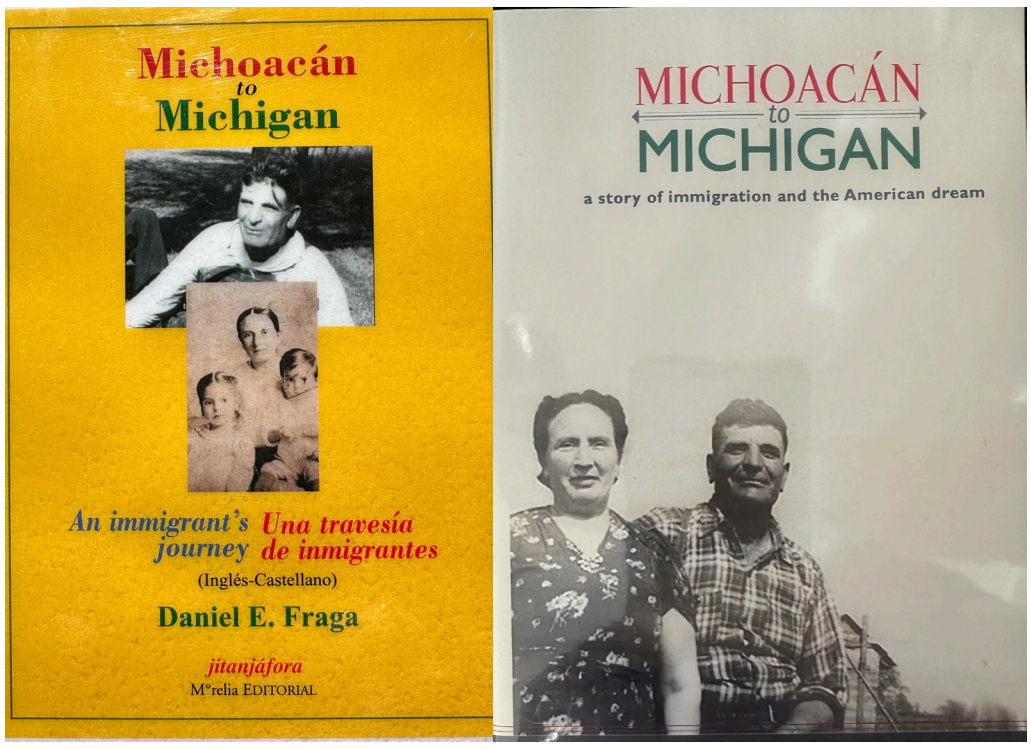
Fraga patriarch Valeriano and matriarch Martina (Herrejon) left Michoacán with their two children at the time, Esperanza (Frances) who was five years old and Erasmo (John) not yet two years of age, to Texas in 1919. After a short period there, they left for Michigan that same year, arriving in Michigan's Thumb area near Saginaw. Valeriano fearing for his life fled Mexico because of the violence that country was experiencing associated with its revolution. After a few harrowing incidents he felt he had no recourse but to leave. Once in Michigan he landed a job in a foundry where he worked for about a year.

Ralph's mother, Esperanza the eldest of the children, once in the U.S. became known as Frances since the Anglo-Americans they encountered could not pronounce her given name. She remembered working in the sugar beet fields along with the adults. They lived as sharecroppers on a number of farms in the Thumb area around North Branch, Marlette and Brown City.

Ralph's father, Natividad Valdez, who was raised on a farm in Michoacan, arrived in Michigan as a teen, and met his mother on the Fraga farm where he served as a ranch hand.

Len's mother Marjorie Fraga's was the youngest of the five Fraga daughters. She would later follow most of her older sisters to find work in Detroit. She and her sister, Carmen lived next to the Radjewski family and they eventually married brothers Lenny, his father and Bill his uncle (respectively). Len reflected on the fact that his mother Margie was proud of her Mexican roots and played her records of Javier Solís, Edie Gorme and the Trio Los Panchos among many others. His father Lenny was a decorated WWII Army veteran, a bricklayer and worked for the City of Detroit for 40 years.

Ralph Valdez (left) and Len Radjewski (right)



(L) Fraga Family Story's Book Cover and (R) Fraga family story DVD cover

After a lifetime of working on farms owned by others, Valeriano Fraga at the age of 60 purchased his own farm, a life-long dream. What Len and Ralph would call the "iconic family farm", was located in Imlay City. Bought around 1950, family members visited frequently. They fondly remember siblings would spend time fixing it, doing farm and house chores such as haying, and other related tasks while the cousins bonded.

Valeriano and Martina Fraga would eventually leave Imlay City when they reached their 80's, moving to the east side of Detroit in the Gratiot and Outer Drive area where Ralph grew up. By then several other family members had moved to the Detroit area making it easier to maintain family contact and support.

Len and Ralph hope younger members of the family will continue to keep the family's storytelling tradition alive. They point to the fact the family continues to print a newsletter, started in the 1970's, detailing the latest "happenings" such as births, weddings etc. They became animated when talking about their annual family reunion, started in 1983, where almost 200 members attended. Members take turns hosting the event. This past August 3rd the 41st Annual Picnic was held in Troy Michigan's Raintree Park and was hosted by Ralph and the Valdez family.

Trust me when I say what I have shared above is a small snapshot of the stories they have shared with us. We are lucky they have done so. Maybe it can be a model for other families? What do you think? Check out their website which can be found at www.thefragafamily.com.

I know I will be visiting it regularly to see what else they have shared.

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Ozzie Rivera, a retired social worker, is a cultural activist and musician who currently teaches on Afro Latino History and Culture at Wayne State University and social work at the University of Michigan.

Preserving Nuestras Historias Training

The Adrian area community is invited to a one-day training on Preserving Nuestras Historias on Friday, October 4, 2024 (9am - 3pm) at the Adrian District Library at 143 E. Maumee Street in Adrian, Michigan. Join members of LLEAD Michigan, the Michigan History Museum and the Archives of Michigan for a joint program hosted by the Adrian District Library designed to help Michigan's Latino community document and preserve its long history in the state.

During this workshop, attendees will learn how to preserve their family histories, protect photos, documents, and artifacts through presentations by engaging with professionals from the Michigan History Museum and the Archives of Michigan.

Attendees will also learn the basics of recording oral histories to preserve family histories through memories and family stories. Those attending do not have to bring anything to the workshop except an eagerness and willingness to preserve Latinx histories for generations to come!

Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

To RSVP for this gathering, please e-mail Chelsey Boss at cboss@adrian.lib.mi.us or Lizbeth Perez-Cazares at lperez-cazares@adrian.lib.mi.us

Capacitación Preservando Nuestras Historias

La comunidad del área de Adrian está invitada a una capacitación de un día sobre la Preservación de Nuestras Historias el viernes 4 de octubre de 2024 (9am - 3pm) en la Biblioteca del Distrito de Adrian en 143 E. Maumee Street en Adrian, Michigan. Únase a los miembros de LLEAD Michigan, el Museo de Historia de Michigan y los Archivos de Michigan en un programa conjunto organizado por la Biblioteca del Distrito de Adrian diseñado para ayudar a la comunidad latina de Michigan a documentar y preservar su larga historia en el estado.

Durante este taller, los asistentes aprenderán cómo preservar su historia familiar, proteger fotografías, documentos y artefactos a través de presentaciones interactuando con profesionales del Museo de Historia de Michigan y los Archivos de Michigan.

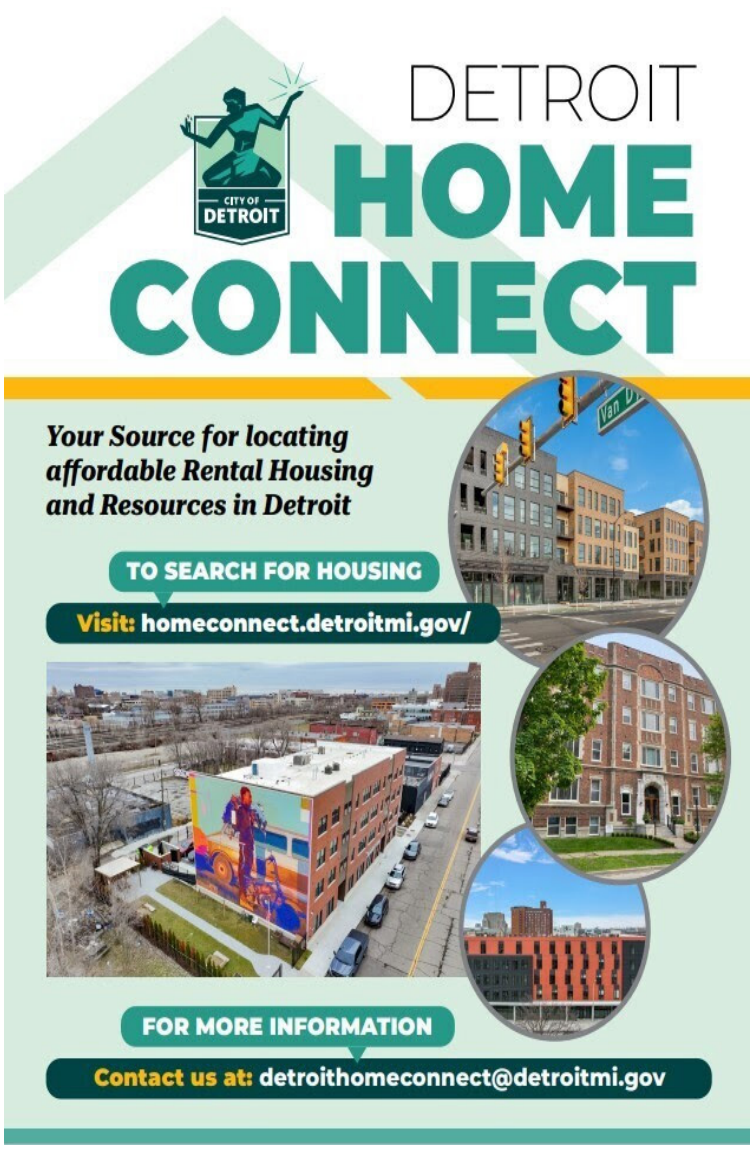
Los asistentes también aprenderán los conceptos básicos de registrar historias orales para preservar historias familiares a través de recuerdos e historias familiares. ¡Los asistentes no tienen que traer nada al taller excepto el entusiasmo y la voluntad de preservar las historias latinas para las generaciones venideras!

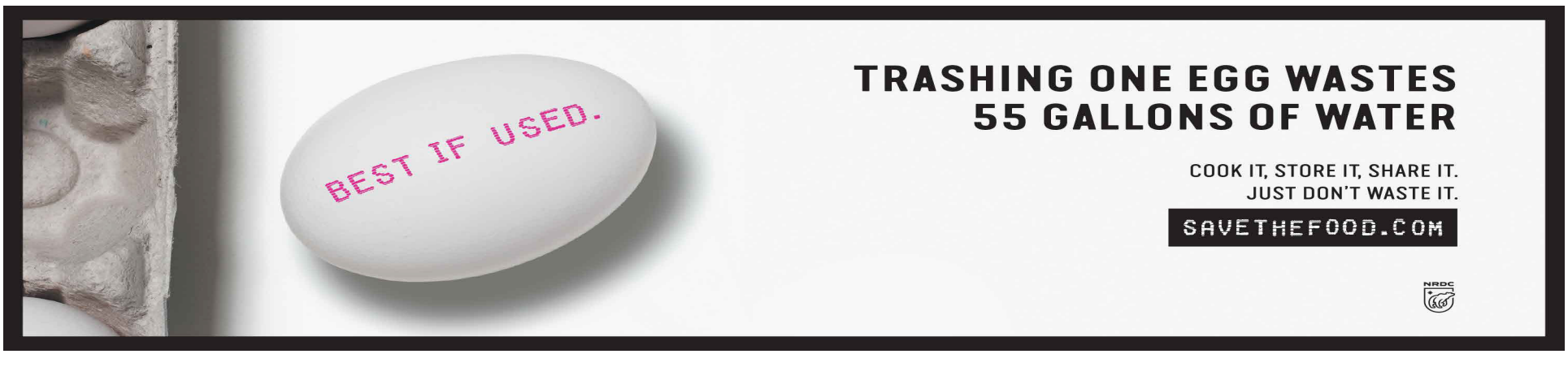
Se proporcionará desayuno y almuerzo.

Para confirmar su asistencia, comuníquese con Chelsey Boss at cboss@adrian.lib.mi.us o Lizbeth Perez-Cazares at lperez-cazares@adrian.lib.mi.us

O llame a la biblioteca 517-265-2265.

Photo by https://latino.si.edu/learn/latino-history-and-culture/latino-history





NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

In Observance of National Hispanic Heritage Month

EL CENTRAL Interview with Governor Gretchen Whitmer

The following interview was conducted by EL CENTRAL Hispanic News freelance writer Estefania Arellano-Bermudez who is a regular contributor to El CENTRAL and Planet Detroit. Governor Whitmer discussed environmental justice matters, the Drive SAFE bill, and more. The Governor's office reached out to EL CENTRAL for this phone interview in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month.

Estefania Arellano-Bermudez

EL CENTRAL: Hello Governor and thank you so much for taking the time to speak with us today.

Governor Whitmer: Of course. Happy to Estefania.

EL CENTRAL: The minimum wage for tipped workers in Michigan will be completely phased out through 2029 and raised to the state minimum wage. So, I know that some restaurants are against this and some say they might have to close. Given this concern, are you considering any changes to the new law before it takes effect in early 2025?

Gov. Whitmer: Well, I think it's important first to start with happy Hispanic Heritage Month. So, I just want to make sure I get that in. It's important to remember that the people of Michigan had an opportunity to vote and they voted to raise the minimum wage. The Republican led legislature many years ago undercut that effort and that's why we're in the moment that we are in because the lawsuit was just decided. We're still working to make sure we understand the impact of the lawsuit and how this law is going to be applied. So, there's still a lot of concern and lack of clarity and we are working to make sure we understand the implications and the impact of the lawsuit before we even start to discuss whether or not there's potential legislative action that should be taken.

EL CENTRAL: You have supported Michigan driver's licenses for undocumented immigrants in the past. Can you give our readers an update on the Drive Safe bill?

Gov. Whitmer: I do think that the drive safe bill is one that is working its way through the legislature. It is really, I believe, crucial that people have the ability to access an identification from the state. And so this is something that as the legislature returns in the fall, I anticipate it could be on the list of actions that they may take before the end of the year.

EL CENTRAL: Waste from the Manhattan Project is being brought into Wayne County, Belleville, Michigan, near Detroit. This is an environmental justice issue. What regulations are being put into place to make sure it is not open season?

Gov. Whitmer: So obviously we want to make sure that Michiganders are safe. That is the most important job of government in my estimation. And so we're looking very critically at all ways that we can improve safety in Michigan. There are a lot of longstanding things that are contributing to this particular issue and one that we are working with our departments to make sure that we've got

Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer

accurate information so that we can chart a path going forward.

EL CENTRAL: Given the influx of Latinos in Michigan, how will you encourage Latino engagement on all levels, especially now that we're coming up to an election? And how will you ensure representation in your policy decisions and campaign priorities?

Gov. Whitmer: Well, one of the things that I'm really grateful for and proud of is the ways that we have enhanced and increased Latino representation in government from people who are in my cabinet to people who are on my staff to voices in the community that we've elevated, working with Hispanic chambers of commerce and always trying to stay very close to the community so that when we are making decisions that impact people's lives, that the Hispanic community is well-represented and considered in all things. So this is a community that has contributed to our economy, our cultural diversity, and every one of us benefits from the Hispanic community in Michigan. And so making sure that we grow this community and support the community and make it easier for entrepreneurs to start their business and be successful is really important to me personally, but it's important to our state.

EL CENTRAL: And my last question is regarding the influx of Venezuelan immigrants and especially in Detroit, you have previously said that Michigan is a welcoming state. What initiatives are in place to help integrate immigrants into local communities, including access to quality education, healthcare, and employment?

Gov. Whitmer: So, there are a number of things that we've done to create opportunity for people who call Michigan Home. Regardless of how long you've called Michigan home, we want to make sure that you can be successful here. Whether it's the historic funding that we have put into our education system for English language learners to just the general per pupil foundational allotment to addressing shortcomings in some communities where there were, I think, funding imbalances. And so we've really worked to create equitable opportunities across Michigan. We also know that right now there is a very, I think, destructive conversation happening around immigrants in our country. And so being very mindful about inclusivity and supporting this community as well as other immigrant communities is really important. That's what built the auto industry. It's what has contributed to our collective economic success, and it's going to be absolutely essential as we think about the future.

State Officials Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

Governor Gretchen Whitmer recognized September 15 through October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month in Michigan, celebrating the rich history, culture and contributions of Hispanic Americans in shaping Michigan's diverse communities.

"Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the legacy and vibrant culture that Hispanic Americans bring to our nation and state," said Governor Whitmer. "From arts, and education to business and public service, Hispanic communities play an essential role in the fabric of Michigan. Their achievements and contributions continue to propel us forward. As we honor this month, let us continue to build a state that reflects the values of equity, inclusion, and opportunity for all."

"Hispanic Michiganders make incredible contributions to our art, culture, music, cuisine, and so much more," said Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II. "I hope every Michigander takes time to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month."

"I am honored to highlight and uplift the accomplishments of those in the Hispanic and Latinx Communities, especially during Hispanic Heritage Month" said Senator Mary Cavanagh (D-Redford Township), Chair of the Legislative Latino Caucus. "As Michigan's fastest growing population, we deserve a seat at the table, and myself, along with other Latino Leaders, are ensuring our voices are heard throughout Michigan's legislative and budget process. The contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans can be felt in every corner of our state and communities. It is an honor to celebrate and highlight those contributions by investing in historically underserved communities and showcasing opportunities for future Latinx leaders."

"Every day, my work is informed by the Latinos who came before me and focused on creating a better Michigan for those who will come after me," said state Senator Darrin Camilleri (D-Trenton), Vice-Chair of the Michigan Legislative Latino Caucus. "I am grateful for my Hispanic heritage and all of the diverse people and cultures that make our state such a great place to live."

"Hispanic Heritage Month is a time for us to remember and celebrate all of the amazing contributions members of the Latin American communities have made to the United States' history and culture," said state Rep. Veronica Paiz (D-Harper Woods). "From housing to health care access, Latinos are key in shaping policies that benefit all Michiganders. "

Governor Whitmer has worked to ensure appointees reflect Michigan's diverse population. Governor Whitmer has appointed 70 Hispanic and Latino Michiganders who are currently serving on various boards and commissions. She has also appointed an additional 10 representatives to serve in 2024.

Michigan joins the nation in commemorating the enduring influence of Hispanic Americans. Hispanic Americans have provided Michigan and the United States with unique social and cultural influences, fundamentally enriching the extraordinary character of our state and nation. The state appreciates the countless achievements of Hispanic Americans and continues our efforts to ensure that Michigan is a welcoming and inclusive place that provides just and equal opportunities for all.

Governor Whitmer's Historic Wins for the Hispanic Community Across Michigan:

- Powered the Office of Global Michigan by increasing their budget 30x, from $500,000 to $15 million, and worked with them to reduce issues complicating immigration channels and assist newcomers with citizenship and acclimation.
- Secured $10 million in ongoing funding for the racial disparities task force, working to create stronger communities by expanding access to healthcare, economic opportunities, and more.
- Quintupled working families tax credit, giving over 700,000 Michigan families an average tax refund of $3,150. This is extra cash for groceries, gas, school supplies, and more.
- Hispanic Latino Commission outlined a strategic plan to grow investments in education, workforce and economic development, health, housing, community investment, and public safety.
- Increased funding for English language learners in schools.
- Put tens of thousands of Michiganders on a tuition-free path to higher education through Michigan Reconnect and lowered the cost of college by thousands for 7/10 graduating seniors with the Michigan Achievement Scholarship.
- Secured the funding for a $2.6 million capacity building grant for the Latinx Technology & Community Center in Flint.
- Invested $5 million to support capital improvements for the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber.

Community Court: Detroit's Beacon of Justice

Led by CEO LaNeice Jones, the organization offers people the opportunity to hold their hearings and resolve their infractions within the community instead of traveling to downtown Detroit's 36th District Court. Offenders can choose to go through the traditional court process, which can stay on their record, or participate in the program and potentially clear their offense.

"By incorporating principles of procedural justice, decision-makers remain neutral, fair, and compassionate, treating defendants with dignity and respect," Jones said.

Many participants face underlying hardships contributing to their offenses, including mental health issues, domestic violence, homelessness, unemployment, and human trafficking. To combat this, the center provides wraparound services to avoid recidivism by addressing those underlying challenges.

The center not only serves individuals with misdemeanor offenses but also offers its wraparound services to any community member in need, regardless of their involvement with the legal system.

Making a difference

In Southwest Detroit, solicitation of prostitution is acknowledged as a community issue, and the SWDCJC addresses it through its Prostitution Offenders Program. The program takes an educational approach to help individuals understand the broader implications of their actions, focusing on human trafficking awareness and personal accountability, while also providing essential health screenings such as STD testing.

Tackling crime extends to the center's youth-focused initiatives, like the Detroit Youth Grow program. DYG engages young people in the area, providing them with the skills needed to resolve conflict peacefully, access job opportunities, and practice restorative healing.

Jones, a Detroit native, leads the center with a focus on its mission.

Initially aspiring to be a doctor, her path shifted during her undergraduate years at the University of Michigan, influenced by a school counselor and her involvement in Project Service, a service-learning initiative. Jones obtained a master's degree in social work and has extensive experience in the criminal justice system. In 2019, she joined the SWDCJC, where she has worked to expand the center's reach and impact.

Success stories

Jones proudly shared success stories involving program participants, on the condition of anonymity.

A Southwest Detroit resident who traveled to Kentucky for work received a traffic violation in Hartford, Kentucky. He faced the risk of job loss, deportation, or jail due to his limited English proficiency and the lack of a translator in the local court system.

Upon learning of his situation, the SWDCJC stepped in to advocate for him. The organization contacted the county court clerk, explaining the center's program and requesting that the participant be allowed to attend his court date virtually to avoid missing work.

Over two weeks, staff persistently followed up with the court and successfully secured a waiver for an in-person appearance, as well as a reduction in his fine. He resolved his legal issues without jeopardizing his employment and immigration status.

"The SWDCJC has really helped me," he said. "The help they provided made my life so much better and easier. I now recommend the center to others in difficult situations."

Another inspiring story is of a 30-year-old man from Guatemala who faced hurdles due to language barriers and a legal situation concerning his driver's license. The SWDCJC aided him not only legally but also by connecting him with services to address his mental health and substance abuse issues and assisting him in applying for employment at a local supermarket, which he successfully obtained.

Challenges ahead

Despite its successes, the center faces significant challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic hit the organization hard, leading to funding shortfalls and a reduction in staff from seven to three full-time employees. This downsizing has made it difficult to maintain services and expand outreach efforts.

"We are a small but mighty organization," Jones said. "The biggest challenge is sustaining funding and getting the word out about what the organization does."

Funding for the center comes from sources like the Flinn Foundation, MiSide, and the Michigan Department of Justice, particularly for newer programs. However, the need for more consistent and diverse funding streams remains critical.

The center plans to introduce two new programs: a Community Violence Intervention program aimed at reducing local violence and a Sexual Assault Program specifically supporting Latina and African American women.

Jones emphasizes the importance of integrating more mental health support into their services, recognizing the significant impact even short-term counseling can have on individuals' recovery and rehabilitation.

A brighter future

By linking individuals and their legal challenges to essential community resources like food, housing, and job assistance, the SWDCJC addresses the multifaceted nature of justice and rehabilitation.

"I envision a future where the SWDCJC's impact extends even further, fostering a more inclusive and prosperous Detroit," Jones said. "Through dedicated community engagement and innovative strategies, the center will continue to be a transformative force, bringing hope and healing to all residents."

******

SWDCJC serves the community at 2026 Lawndale St, Detroit, MI 48209, and is open Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm. It can be reached at (313) 879-21559.

Maxima Oxholm Barraza is a second-year student at Oberlin College interested in pursuing law school.

SWDCJC Participants doing community service in Delray. Photo by SWDCJC

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS

Michigan's #1 oldest, largest and only bi-lingual Hispanic news. Minority (Hispanic) and woman owned • Multi-year winner of Jose Marti National Award for excellence in Editorial and Design. Published in Metro Detroit since 1988.

EL CENTRAL informs and celebrates Metro Detroit's Hispanic and Latino community and Southwest Detroit in particular and supports the professional development of local reporters and photographers who seek to enter the journalism profession.

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EL CENTRAL is a weekly publication. The deadline for articles and ads is noon, Monday prior to publication. The opinions and views expressed are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Managing Editor.

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Tribunal Comunitario: Faro de Justicia en Detroit

Photos by SWDCJC

El centro no solo atiende a individuos con delitos menores, sino que también ofrece sus servicios integrales a cualquier miembro de la comunidad que lo necesite, independientemente de su involucramiento con el sistema legal.

Haciendo la diferencia

En el suroeste de Detroit, la solicitud de prostitución es reconocida como un problema comunitario, y el SWDCJC lo aborda a través del programa de infractores de prostitución. El programa adopta un enfoque educativo para ayudar a las personas a comprender las implicaciones más amplias de sus acciones, centrándose en la concienciación sobre la trata de personas y la responsabilidad personal, al mismo tiempo que proporciona exámenes de salud esenciales como pruebas de enfermedades de transmisión sexual.

El combate al crimen incluye iniciativas centradas en los jóvenes, como el programa Detroit Youth Grow (DYG, por sus siglas en inglés). DYG involucra a los jóvenes del área, proporcionándoles las habilidades necesarias para resolver conflictos pacíficamente, acceder a oportunidades de empleo y practicar la sanación restaurativa.

Jones, originaria de Detroit, lidera el centro centrada en su misión.

Inicialmente aspirando a ser doctora, su camino cambió durante sus años de licenciatura en la Universidad de Míchigan, influenciada por un consejero escolar y su participación en Project Service, una iniciativa de aprendizaje-servicio. Jones obtuvo una maestría en trabajo social y tiene una amplia experiencia en el sistema judicial penal. En 2019, se unió al SWDCJC, donde ha trabajado para expandir el alcance y el impacto del centro.

Historias de éxito

Jones compartió orgullosamente historias de éxito involucrando a participantes del programa, bajo la condición de anonimato.

Un residente del suroeste de Detroit que viajó a Kentucky por trabajo recibió una infracción de tráfico en Hartford, Kentucky. Enfrentaba el riesgo de perder su trabajo, deportación o encarcelamiento debido a su limitado dominio del inglés y la falta de un traductor en el sistema judicial local.

Al enterarse de su situación, el SWDCJC intervino para abogar por él. La organización contactó al secretario del tribunal del condado, explicando el programa del centro y solicitando que se permitiera al participante asistir a su fecha de corte virtualmente para evitar perder el trabajo.

Durante dos semanas, el personal siguió insistentemente con el tribunal y logró asegurar una exención para la aparición en persona, así como una reducción en su multa. Resolvió sus problemas legales sin poner en riesgo su empleo y su estatus migratorio.

"El SWDCJC realmente me ha ayudado", dijo. "La ayuda que me brindaron hizo mi vida mucho mejor y más fácil. Ahora recomiendo el centro a otros en situaciones difíciles".

Otra historia inspiradora es la de un hombre de 30 años de Guatemala que enfrentaba obstáculos debido a barreras lingüísticas y una situación legal relacionada con su licencia de conducir. El SWDCJC lo ayudó no solo legalmente, sino también conectándolo con servicios para abordar sus problemas de salud mental y abuso de sustancias, y asistiéndolo en la aplicación para un empleo en un supermercado local, el cual obtuvo con éxito.

Desafíos por delante

A pesar de sus éxitos, el centro enfrenta desafíos significativos. La pandemia de COVID-19 afectó duramente a la organización, llevando a una escasez de fondos y una reducción en el personal de siete a tres empleados a tiempo completo. Esta reducción ha dificultado el mantenimiento de los servicios y la expansión de los esfuerzos de alcance comunitario.

"Somos una organización pequeña pero poderosa", dijo Jones. "El mayor desafío es mantener el financiamiento y dar a conocer lo que hace la organización".

La financiación para el centro proviene de fuentes como la Fundación Flinn, MiSide y el Departamento de Justicia de Míchigan, particularmente para programas más recientes. Sin embargo, la necesidad de fuentes de financiamiento más consistentes y diversificadas sigue siendo crítica.

El centro planea introducir dos nuevos programas: un programa de intervención en la violencia comunitaria dirigido a reducir la violencia local y un programa de asalto sexual que apoya específicamente a mujeres latinas y afroamericanas.

Jones enfatiza la importancia de integrar más apoyo de salud mental en sus servicios, reconociendo el impacto significativo que incluso el asesoramiento a corto plazo puede tener en la recuperación y rehabilitación de las personas.

Un futuro más brillante

Al vincular a las personas y sus desafíos legales con recursos comunitarios esenciales como alimentos, vivienda y asistencia laboral, el SWDCJC aborda la naturaleza multifacética de la justicia y la rehabilitación.

"Visualizo un futuro donde el impacto del SWDCJC se extienda aún más, fomentando un Detroit más inclusivo y próspero", dijo Jones. "Mediante un compromiso comunitario dedicado y estrategias innovadoras, el centro continuará siendo una fuerza transformadora, brindando esperanza y sanación a todos los residentes".

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El SWDCJC sirve a la comunidad en 2026 Lawndale St, Detroit, MI 48209, y está abierto de lunes a viernes, de 9 a.m. a 5 p.m. Se puede contactar al (313) 879-21559.

Maxima Oxholm Barraza es estudiante de segundo año en Oberlin College y está interesada en estudiar derecho.

Adaptado al espanol por Juan Ochoa.

Participants doing community service in Clark Park

James Philips staffing an info table at Clark Park during Cinco de Mayo festival

OPENING OLD WESTERN MARKET LLC.
RECRUITING VENDORS/FOOD TRUCKS

CORKTOWN DETROIT

Hi Vendors. We, in the past, have discussed the opening of Old Western Market in Corktown. Starting in the late 1800's there were three major markets in Detroit; Western, Eastern and Central (which was in Campus Martius) Markets. Western Market was taken down in the late 1960"s to make room for the major highways that are now north of Michigan Avenue. Cathy Schneider acquired land for tenant parking but soon realized it was the only land remnant of Western Market. Old Western Market was developed to recreate the mercantile resources previously provided to the communities surrounding the former Western Market (1891). The market now captures the new trend towards small mercantile spaces in a common building. OWM is an anchor destination for food, coffee and a variety of novelty items. Besides the market's permanent vendors, Saturdays will be enhanced by a seasonal farmer's market utilizing locally grown produce. In the future, OWM will expand to 14 permanent Michigan Avenue storefronts, dedicated to our successful vendors who want to purchase brick and mortar, as well as the market continuing in the rear. OWM will consist of 20 vendors under one 40 by 40 tent, three Food Trucks and five outside the tent vendors, utilizing 10 by 10 pop up tents. OWM will be a permanent business, initially starting three days a week, 4 pm to 8pmThursday, Friday and Saturday and a farmers market on Saturday 12 to 4pm with a future full time six day a week market.

Vendors/Food Trucks contact us for space:

Email us at oldwesternmarket@aol.com

Call us at 516-698-7975

2640 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI. 48216 - oldwesternmarket@aol.com

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NATIONAL HISPANIC

Detroit Lions Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

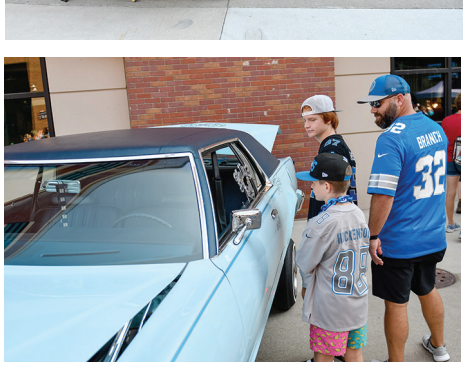
Photos by Adam J. Dewey

The Detroit Lions recognized Latino Heritage Month during their regular season game, September 15 at Ford Field against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Latino heritage within Detroit was celebrated through traditional dance performances, live music, interactive activities and informative discussions on Latino culture. Festivities included Ballet Folklorico Detroit, Salsa & Bachata Dance Lessons taught by Mino Bachatero, and Mariachi Femenil Detroit. Local Detroit artist, Natalie Rivera, live-painted a piece featuring Lions WR Amon-Ra St. Brown depicted as the Aztec Sun God, Huitzilopochtli. There was also face painting and a low rider display. There was an on-field recognition of former United States Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Cynthia Dixon as the game's honoree for her courageous military service to our nation. After completing her nine-year enlistment, Dixon returned home to Southwest Detroit, serving at Santos Church located in the heart of Mexicantown as the Mission and Outreach Coordinator and Admin of the church.

Mino Bachatero leads Bachata dance lessons outside Ford Field in the Plaza de los Leones.

The Detroit Lions' presentation of Sunday's Hometown Hero, included an on-field recognition of former United States Marine Corps Staff Sergeant Cynthia Dixon as the game's honoree for her courageous military service to our nation. After completing her enlistment of nine years (2008-2017), Dixon returned home to Southwest Detroit to create positive change in her community by serving at Santos Church located in the heart of Mexicantown as the Mission and Outreach Coordinator and Admin of the Church.

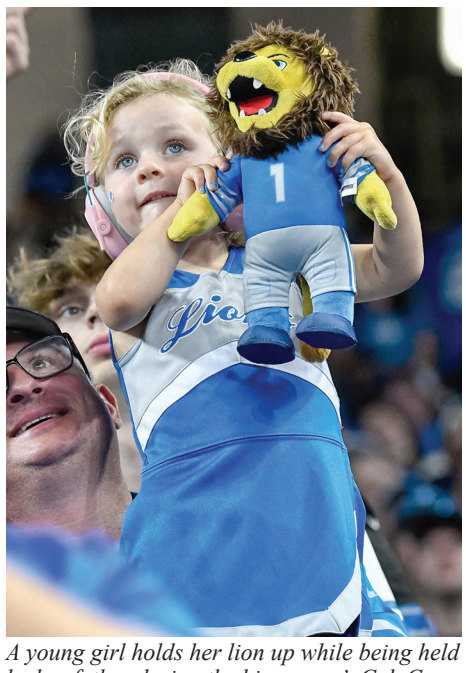
Four legged Lions fans take a stroll with their owners in the Plaza de los Leones outside of Ford Field.



Lions fans check out the low riders were on display in the Plaza de los Leones outside of Ford Field.

Lions fans were treated to a passionate rendition of the national anthem.

Fans walk along the Plaza de los Leones outside of Ford Field before the game.



A young girl holds her lion up while being held by her father during the big screen's Cub Cam.

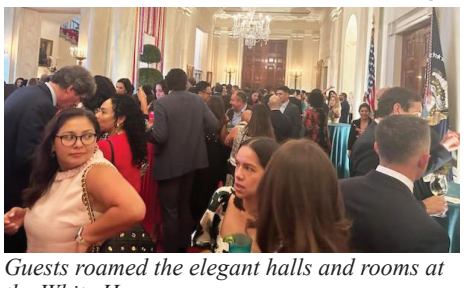
A super fan dresses up as Darth Vader with a Lions twist.

HERITAGE MONTH

Local Latinos/as Observe National Hispanic Heritage Month in Washington D.C.

Last week, a small delegation of Hispanics from Detroit and Michigan were invited to participate in formal observations of National Hispanic Heritage Month. It was a doubleheader for invitees from around the country including Eva Garza Dewaelsche, President and CEO of SER Metro-Detroit and owner and publisher of EL CENTRAL Hispanic News and Belda Garza, former Michigan State Representative and Chair of MANA de Metro Detroit. The first event was a reception hosted by President Joe Biden at the White House on Wednesday, September 18. State Rep. Veronica Paiz also attended. On Thursday, Dewaelsche and Garza toured the capital and dropped by the offices of our congressional representatives. Thursday evening, they attended the 47th annual Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Awards Gala. The Gala honors the rich legacy and outstanding achievements and contributions of exemplary Latino trailblazers.

Folkloric dancers entertained White House guests and staff at the reception



Guests roamed the elegant halls and rooms at the White House

Belda Garza, left, and Eva Garza Dewaelsche pose outside the office of Rep. Rashida Tlaib.

At the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Gala, from left, Julian Martinez, Belda Garza, Eva Garza Dewaelsche and Ignacio Salazar.

Eva Garza Dewaelsche posing under the White House portrait of former First Lady Michelle Obama.

Belda Garza, John Leguizamo and Eva Garza Dewaelsche share a moment at the White House reception.

State Representative Veronica Paiz, left, with Belda Garza and Eva Garza Dewaelsche under the White House portrait of former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

In collaboration with several partnering business service organizations, we are thrilled to host Latin-X-Tech on Monday, Oct. 7. This year's theme, "Reclaiming Our Legacy: Our Past, Our Present, Our Future," celebrates the contributions of both traditional and tech-based Hispanic/Latinx small businesses in Detroit and beyond during Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month.

This event offers a great opportunity for local entrepreneurs, founders and angel investors to connect, celebrate and uplift the rich Hispanic/Latinx culture of innovation, community and legacy. Attendees can look forward to an engaging panel discussion, a lively mix-and-mingle happy hour, entertainment and much more!

The event will be held at Newlab at Michigan Central and is free to attend.

En colaboración con varias organizaciones de servicios empresariales asociados, estamos encantados de recibir Latin-X-Tech el lunes 7 de octubre. El tema de este año, "Reclamar nuestro legado: Nuestro pasado, nuestro presente, nuestro futuro", celebra las contribuciones de las pequeñas empresas hispanas/latinas tradicionales y tecnológicas en Detroit y más allá durante el Mes de la Herencia Hispana/Latina.

Este evento ofrece una gran oportunidad para que los empresarios, fundadores e inversionistas ángeles locales se conecten, celebren y eleven la rica cultura hispana/latina de innovación, comunidad y legado. Los asistentes pueden esperar un interesante panel de discusión, una animada hora feliz para mezclar, entretenimiento y mucho más.

El evento se llevará a cabo en las instalaciones de Newlab en el Michigan Central y la asistencia es gratuita.

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month
LATIN-X-TECH
Reclaiming Our Legacy:
Our Past, Our Present, Our Future
Latin-X-Tech offers a great opportunity for local entrepreneurs, founders and angel investors to connect, celebrate and uplift the rich Hispanic/Latinx culture of innovation, community and legacy. This year's theme celebrates the contributions of both traditional and tech-based Hispanic/Latinx small businesses in Detroit and beyond.
Monday, Oct. 7 | 5:30-8:30 p.m.
In-person at Newlab @ Michigan Central
Panel Discussion, Networking,
Community Resources,
Food, Music & More!
Registration is strongly encouraged!
Latin-X-Tech is made possible by:

En Celebración del Mes de la Herencia Hispana
LATIN-X-TECH
Reclamar Nuestro Legado:
Nuestro Pasado, Nuestro Presente, Nuestro Futuro
Latin-X-Tech ofrece una gran oportunidad para que los empresarios, fundadores e inversionistas ángeles locales se conecten, celebren y elevan la rica cultura Hispana/Latina de innovación, comunidad y legado. El tema de este año celebra las contribuciones de las pequeñas empresas Hispanas/Latinas, tradicionales y tecnologicas en Detroit y más allá.
Lunes, 7 de Oct. | 5:30-8:30 p.m.
En persona en Newlab @ Michigan Central
Panel de Discusión, Networking,
Recursos Comunitarios,
Música, Comida y Más!
¡Se recomienda registrarse!
Latin-X-Tech es posible gracias a:

Wolverines - 27 USC - 24 !!!

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Suzie Baker

The #12 (formerly #18th) University of Michigan Wolverines (3-1, 1-0 Big Ten Conference) hosted the #13 formerly 11th) USC Trojans (2-1, 0-1 Big Ten Conference), at the Big House this past Saturday.

The Wolverines defeated the Trojans 27 - 24.

The University of Michigan Wolverines host Minnesota Golden Gophers, this Saturday, September 28th at 12:00 pm (FOX).

The Wolverines go on the first road game, for a Big Ten Chmpionship rematch, as they travel to take on the Washington Huskies, on Saturday, October 5th.

Photos below are highlights from the Wolverines vs. USC

Michigan #55 Mason Graham sacks USC QB

Former Michigan coach, Loyd Carr, honarary Captain for game

USC QB, sets up a play from their own end zone

Michigan #20 Kalel Mullins making a run

Tigers In Playoffs ???

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

It has been since 2010 that the Detroit Tigers have made the Playoffs.

The Detroit Tigers now control their fate, and currently find themselves in a wild card spot, with 5 games remaining as of Wednesday.

If the Tigers make the Playoffs, then they will start on Tuesday, October 1st.

Photos below are from previous games this season at Comerica Park

Beau Brieske (#4) pitching, helping Tigers with a run for the Playoffs

Tiger fans rallying around the Tigers run for the Playoffs

City Jolts League Leaders

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

After welcoming the Western Conference leaders from New Mexico to Keyworth and dispatching them in a hard-fought 1-0 win, Detroit City took a step up the league hierarchy with the arrival of Louisville City. The purple-clad visitors have virtually locked up the top seed in the playoffs. They came in well clear of second place Charleston with games in hand. Full of confidence, they didn't bargain for the reception from the home fans and the home team hyped up for a national television audience on ESPN2.

If DCFC manager Danny Dichio enjoyed the win over New Mexico, he must have been over the moon with the second win over a top team in a two games. Once again, DCFC gave as good as they got in the physical battles that are a feature of lower division football. Dichio reworked his team into a solid 4-4-2 with Connor Rutz joining Ben Morris up top. Rhys Williams joined the four-man midfield and the back four stayed consistent. Carlos Saldana looks to have claimed the number one goalkeeper spot over club legend Nate Steinwascher.

Little of note happened in the first quarter of an hour, but the crowd and game exploded into life when James Murphy floated a free kick to the far post and Maxi Rodriguez stormed in to slam the ball into the goal. Louisville looked stunned. Almost immediately thereafter, DCFC settled into a pattern of slowing the game at every opportunity. Saldana took goal kicks at such a leisurely pace that the referee warned him about timewasting even before halftime.

Saldana's tactics came back to bite him in first half stoppage time when he charged off his line and made a rash challenge on Louisville striker Wilson Harris, conceding a penalty kick. Sean Totsch converted to send the teams into the halftime break tied 1-1.

The game changed in DCFC's favor just four minutes into the second half when Louisville's Phillip Goodrum received his second yellow card for an elbow to DCFC's Michael Bryant. Suddenly, a serious chance to turn one point into three unexpectedly presented itself. However, Louisville actually forced the play in the aftermath of the sending off. They generated a few half chances and kept solid possession. Until they didn't.

As the visitors attacked in the sixty-sixth minute, DCFC captain Stephen Carroll cleared a ball forward to Maxi Rodriguez. City's midfield maestro controlled the ball and found Connor Rutz breaking past Louisville's last defender. The goalkeeper charged out of his area, but Rutz deftly eluded his poorly timed challenge and passed the ball into an empty net. The Commerce Township native wheeled away to celebrate with the fans as smoke poured forth from the Northern Guard.

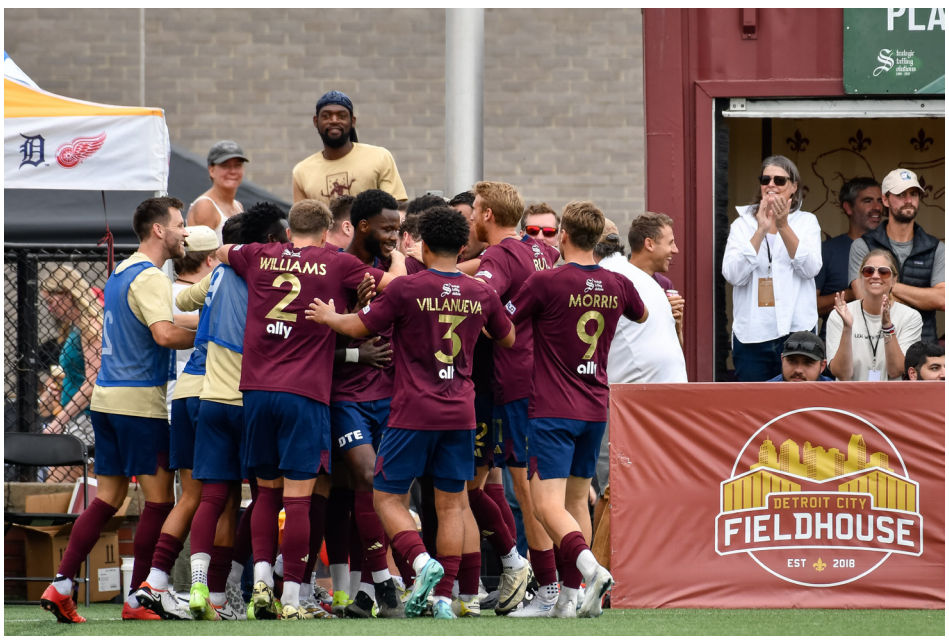
Le Rouge rode out the response from Louisville and more smoke erupted in stoppage time and at the final whistle. Having played two drab draws against two of the league's lesser lights, DCFC has now pulled off back-to-back wins against the conference leaders. The four game unbeaten run comes at the perfect time. DCFC now trails third place Tampa Bay by just one point with five games left. Saturday night, they play at Monterey Bay, who are second to last in the Western Conference. It is vital that DCFC play to the standards of last two wins rather then slip back to the sloppy play of the two draws that preceded them.

DCFC - 2, Louisville City FC - 1

For more information about Detroit City FC, visit detcityfc.com and follow @DetroitCityFC on Twitter and Facebook and @detroitcityfootballclub on Instagram.

Photos below are highlights from Detroit City FC mens against Lousville City FC

Photos by Adam J. Dewey



EDITORIAL OPINION

¿Qué tienen que ver los cupones de alimentos con las elecciones?

Por José López Zamorano
Para La Red Hispana

A sólo días del vencimiento para un acuerdo sobre el presupuesto federal y sobre importantes iniciativas como la Ley del Campo (Farm Bill), no existe ningún indicativo de qué podrán resolverse a tiempo.

Se trata de una virtual repetición de lo ocurrido en 2023, cuando ante la falta de un acuerdo se acordó extender los beneficios de la ley del campo por un año más y expiran este 30 de septiembre.

El nudo de los desacuerdos entre demócratas y republicanos es la financiación del Programa de Asistencia Nutricional Suplementaria (SNAP) de cupones de alimentos a familias de bajos ingresos, que proporciona asistencia alimentaria a casi 42 millones de personas. SNAP absorbe más del 80% del costo de la Ley del Campo.

Sólo el 20 por ciento de los hogares que reciben SNAP tienen ingresos mensuales brutos por encima del umbral federal de pobreza. El ingreso bruto mensual promedio de un hogar que recibe SNAP es de unos $900 dólares y el ingreso neto de $400. Alrededor del 16% de los beneficiarios de SNAP son familias hispanas.

SNAP no sólo ayuda a combatir la inseguridad alimentaria entre las familias de más bajos ingresos del país, sino que tiene un efecto positivo para estimular a las comunidades locales y aumentar la demanda de productos agrícolas y de consumo básico, todo lo cual tiene un impacto positivo en la economía en general.

Pero los republicanos buscan recortes de 30,000 millones de dólares a SPNAP e imponer requisitos laborales y de elegibilidad más estrictos y una reducción del gasto, a fin de canalizarlo a agricultores. Sin embargo, los demócratas, incluida la Casa Blanca, se oponen de manera categórica a cualquier recorte.

Rudy Arredondo, que representa 75,000 granjeros y rancheros latinos en Estados Unidos, y que forma parte de una coalición que empuja por una renovación de la Ley del Campo, dice que han sido mantenidos en la sombra sobre posibles avances en las negociaciones.

"No estamos seguros que la Ley del Campo vaya a ser finalizada. No sabemos si se han resuelto las diferencias en las dos propuestas legislativas, de demócratas y republicanos. Nos preocupa mucho", me comenta.

A sólo días del plazo del 30 de septiembre, demócratas y republicanos acordaron un plan para extender el plazo para un arreglo presupuestal hasta el 20 de diciembre, después de las elecciones. Pero la Ley del Campo no fue incluida.

Todo parece indicar que la intención de demócratas y republicanos es explorar la posibilidad de un acuerdo sobre la ley del campo durante las sesiones legislativas que tienen lugar después de las elecciones y antes del inicio del nuevo Congreso.

Los beneficios de SNAP no se acabarán inmediatamente. Aún si no hay un acuerdo presupuestal, pero las familias de más bajos ingresos del país merecen una solución duradera que les brinde seguridad y una alimentación digna.

Comunícate con tu delegación en el Congreso en Washington y hazle saber tu punto de vista. Nadie debe ser un espectador pasivo cuando la alimentación de millones, en especial de los más vulnerables, está en juego. Tu voz y tu voto cuentan.

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o redactor

¿Tienes una opinión contraria? Escríbenos a info@elcentralmedia.com

What do food stamps have to do with elections?

By José López Zamorano
For La Red Hispana

With just days to go before an agreement on the federal budget and on important initiatives such as the Farm Bill, there is no indication that they can be resolved in time.

This is a virtual repeat of what happened in 2023, when in the absence of an agreement it was agreed to extend the benefits of the Farm Bill for another year and they expire on September 30.

The crux of the disagreements between Democrats and Republicans is the financing of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) of food stamps to low-income families, which provides food assistance to almost 42 million people. SNAP absorbs more than 80% of the cost of the Farm Bill.

Only 20 percent of households receiving SNAP have gross monthly income above the federal poverty line. The average gross monthly income of a household receiving SNAP is about $900 and the net income is $400. About 16% of SNAP recipients are Hispanic families.

SNAP not only helps combat food insecurity among the country's lowest-income families, but it has a positive effect on stimulating local communities and increasing demand for agricultural and consumer staples, all of which have a positive impact on the economy as a whole.

But Republicans are seeking $30 billion in cuts to SPNAP and stricter work and eligibility requirements and spending cuts to channel more money to farmers. Democrats, including the White House, however, are adamantly opposed to any cuts.

Rudy Arredondo, who represents 75,000 Latino farmers and ranchers in the United States and is part of a coalition pushing for a renewal of the Farm Law, says they have been kept in the dark about possible progress in negotiations.

"We are not sure that the Farm Law will be finalized. We don't know if the differences in the two legislative proposals, from Democrats and Republicans, have been resolved. We are very concerned," he tells me.

Just days before the September 30 deadline, Democrats and Republicans agreed on a plan to extend the deadline for a budget deal until December 20, after the elections. But the Farm Law was not included.

It seems that Democrats and Republicans intend to explore the possibility of an agreement on the farm bill during the legislative sessions that take place after the elections and before the start of the new Congress.

SNAP benefits will not end immediately. Even if there is no budget agreement, the lowest-income families in the country deserve a lasting solution that provides them with security and decent food.

Contact your congressional delegation in Washington and let them know your point of view. No one should be a passive spectator when the food of millions, especially the most vulnerable, is at stake. Your voice and your vote count.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

John Leguizamo reaches back in time to reclaim Latin American history for a PBS documentary series

By abcnews.com

If you think Latin American history starts with Christopher Columbus, John Leguizamo would like to have a word.

He points out there were great empires and civilizations during the thousands of years before 1492 — like the mighty Incas, Aztecs and Maya, whose great strides in medicine, engineering and science echo today.

"I get power from that," says the actor and activist. "It helps me to keep going in today's America that is a difficult landscape at the moment."

Leguizamo is spreading the word with a new PBS three-part series, "VOCES American Historia: The Untold History of Latinos," which unspools the fascinating history and often overlooked contributions of Latino people. It starts airing Friday.

"John Hopkins University did a study and found that 87% of Latino contributions to the making of America are absent in the history textbooks. And the 13% that's there gets less than five sentences. So this is our corrective for that," Leguizamo says.

The first part includes the legacy of the Taino, Maya, Aztec and Inca, or as Leguizamo calls them, "the OG civilizations of Latin America." Then the show explores the Latino roles in the American Revolution and Civil War and the building of the United States. The third part is about the fight for Latino civil rights and preserving their cultural history.

"I want my daughter to feel very proud of the ancestry and the roots that she came from and hopefully other Latino kids and adults will get the same feeling from it," says co-creator and director Ben DeJesus.

"American Historia" features over a dozen leading historians, anthropologists and experts, as well as actors reading source material, including Benjamin Bratt, Bryan Cranston, Rosario Dawson, Laurence Fishburne, Ethan Hawke, Edward James Olmos, Rosie Perez, and Liev Schreiber.

"This is only the beginning for us. We look at this as volume one. We look at this like our virtual visual history book. And the history book is incomplete unless we keep digging deeper and further," says DeJesus.

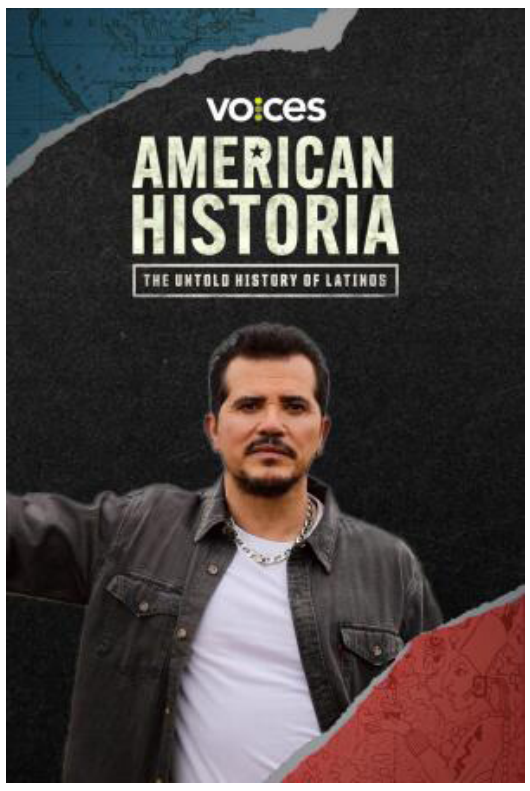
It is often a tough series to watch, especially when Columbus brought three boats with troops and billions of germs that would mean an apocalypse for Indigenous people — disease, enslavement, rape and forced displacement. Gold that was plundered from the Americas funded the Enlightenment and the European commercial revolution. "To me, Latin people are the most resilient people on Earth because we came from almost complete genocide," says Leguizamo. "Our culture was destroyed, our religion, our language. And yet here we are adding $3.6 trillion to the U.S. GDP annually."

For Leguizamo and DeJesus, this is a very personal mission. The Incas were famous for developing drug compounds still in use today and for their skill with skull surgery, with relative higher survival rates than in Europe. Leguizamo wonders if that kind of knowledge and pride might help boost the relatively low number of Latin physicians today.

"Imagine how others would see us if they knew our rich history. Imagine how we would see ourselves if we knew our own stories," he says to the camera.

The show was inspired in large part by Leguizamo's latest one-man show on Broadway, "Latin History for Morons," an examination of Latin heroes prompted by a school essay requested by his son's private school.

"Onstage, there was only so far that John could go. As you get closer to Broadway, John had to keep paring down the script," says DeJesus. "Now, all of a sudden, we have hours of national broadcast." There are many tales of heroes, like Rear Admiral David Glasgow Farragut, who during the Battle of Mobile Bay in 1864 famously said: "Damn the torpedoes." Or 17-year-old housekeeper Carmelita Torres, who in 1917 tied up the Juarez Port protesting humiliating inspections at the border.



"When I do a show like this, it's for every single person in this country and outside this country to feel that they're important, that they matter, that they have self-worth, that their contributions will not be forgotten," Leguizamo says.

"We have made strides, huge strides. We deserve a lot more and we need to get more because we're 20% of the population and yet not getting 20% value for our buck."

Viewers will see a history of a complex people gradually unerased but its creators hope there are lessons and a blueprint forward for more than just Latinos.

"This is not just a Latino project for Latino audiences," says DeJesus. "No, this is meant for everyone. Just like when I watch a documentary of Ken Burns or somebody like that, all of a sudden I come out of it with a new perspective and more enlightened. So that's our hope for all kinds of audiences."

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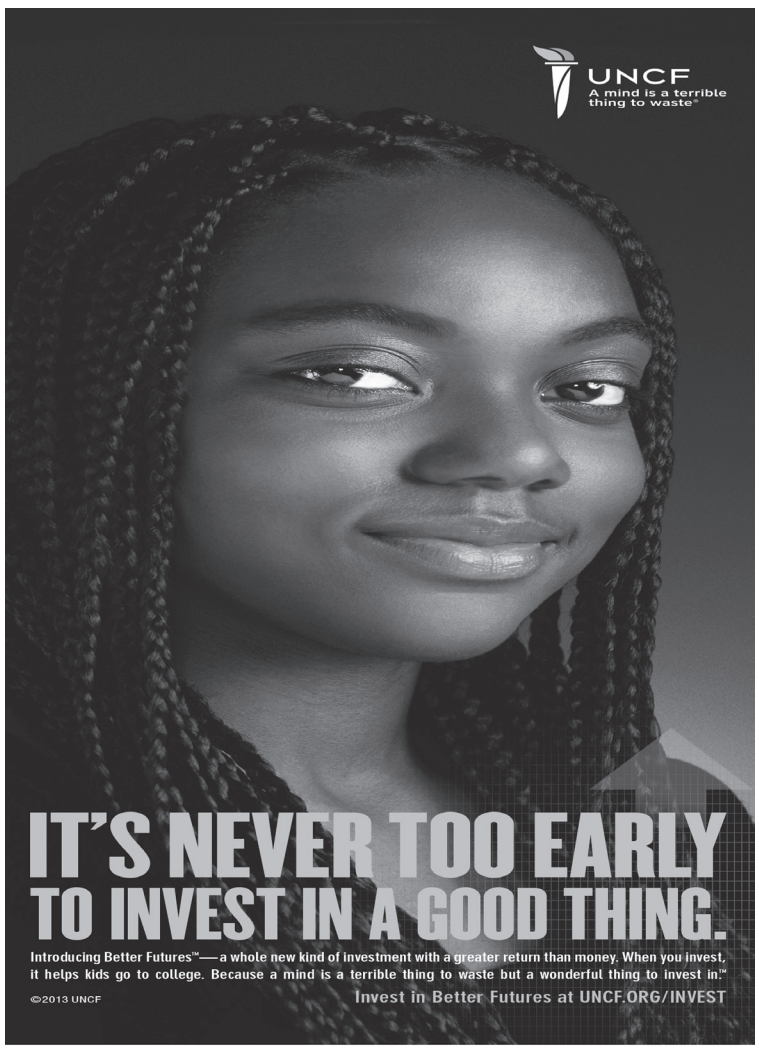
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Public Notice

SER YouthBuild Learning Academy

2024-2025 Board Meeting Calendar

Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1967, being Sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

Meeting Location: 9215 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, MI, 48210
Time: 5:30pm
Website: www.serlearningacademy.org

August 12th, 2024-Annual Meeting
September 9th, 2024
October 14th, 2024-Columbus Day
November 11th, 2024-Veterans Day
December 9th, 2024
No January Meeting
February 10th, 2025
March 10th, 2025
April 14th, 2025
May 12th, 2025
June 9th, 2025-Budget Hearing
No July Meeting

All meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of the month, except when the Academy is on school break (April 15th is the exception). Meetings are held at 5:30pm and take place at 9215 Michigan Avenue, Detroit Michigan at the SER YouthBuild learning Academy School.

Secretary Certification:

I certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the SER YouthBuild Learning Academy Charter School at the properly noticed open meeting held on the 10th of June, 2024 at which a quorum was present.

Board Secretary: _____

Especial World's Cultures

Hispanoamerica

Hispanoamerica

Hispanoamerica is the name given to the group of 19 Spanish-speaking countries on the American continent. These countries are located in North America, Central America, South America and the Caribbean (the three largest Antilles).

There are special cases as Belize and United States, countries in which the official language is English, however, the Spanish-speaking population and Hispanic descendants are a large part of the population.

Being Hispanic in contemporary society implies a series of common features, among the most notable are the Spanish language, also, the music.

The music includes African percussion as well as different wind instruments, such as the Andean flutes called Quena, Sikus, Zampoñas, Antaras among others. The musical rhythms have in common contact dances in which the hip movement and integration of the entire body is an outstanding characteristic, such as tango, bachata, salsa, cumbia.

The cultural diversity brought by the 19 countries of Latin America: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela; show the color and joy with which one can live.

Hispanic culture implies the cultural syncretism between the indigenous peoples of the American continent, the indigenous peoples of the African continent and the people of the Kingdom of Spain.

The history of Latin America is linked since 1492 with the era of colonization and occupation by the Kingdom of Spain in Europe to the different peoples and cultures that inhabited the American continent.

The adjectives Latin and Hispanic are often used interchangeably, however, they imply different things. The countries that make up Latin America include countries that speak other Romance languages such as Portuguese and French, therefore, Brazil, Dominica, French Guiana, Haiti, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Barthélemy and Saint Martin are included.

It is important to note that during the more than three centuries of Spanish occupation and colonization, indigenous peoples were subjected to the dispossession of their lands, enslavement, racial discrimination and other types of abuse.

Currently, a large number of public projects and policies have been created that seek both respect and acceptance of different cultures, instead of assimilation, which is to omit and dissolve cultural diversity to integrate the culture of the dominant people.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Hispanoamérica

Hispanoamérica

Hispanoamérica es como se le llama al conjunto de los 19 países de habla hispana en el continente americano. Estos países se ubican en Norteamérica, Centroamérica, Suramérica y el Caribe (las tres Antillas mayores).

Existen casos especiales como Belice y Estados Unidos, países en los que su lengua oficial es el inglés, no obstante, la población de habla hispana e hispano descendiente son gran parte de la población.

Ser hispano en la sociedad contemporánea implica una serie de rasgos en común, entre los más destacables son la lengua española y la música. La música incluye las percusiones africanas así como diferentes instrumentos de viento, como las flautas andinas llamadas Quena, Sikus, Zampoñas, Antaras entre otras. Los ritmos musicales tienen en común bailes de contacto en los que el movimiento de cadera e integración del cuerpo completo es una característica sobresaliente, como lo son el tango, la bachata, la salsa, la cumbia.

La diversidad cultural que aportan los 19 países de Hispanoamérica: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Puerto Rico, República Dominicana, Uruguay y Venezuela; dan muestra del color y la alegría con que se puede vivir.

La cultura hispana implica el sincretismo cultural entre los pueblos indígenas del continente americano, los pueblos indígenas del continente africano y el pueblo del Reyno de España.

Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en
EL CENTRAL
Hispanic News

La historia de Hispanoamérica se une desde 1492 con la época de la colonización y ocupación por parte del Reyno de España en Europa a los diferentes pueblos y culturas que habitaban el continente americano.

Suele usarse de forma indistinta el adjetivo latino e hispano, sin embargo, implican cosas distintas, los países que conforman Latinoamérica incluyen los países que hablan otras lenguas romances como el portugués y el francés, por tanto, se incluyen Brasil, Dominica, Guyana Francesa, Haití, Guadalupe, Martinica, San Bartolomé y San Martín.

Es importante tener en cuenta, durante los más de tres siglos de ocupación y colonización española, los pueblos indígenas fueron sometidos al despojo de sus tierras, esclavización, discriminación racial y otro tipo de vejaciones.

Actualmente se ha hecho un gran tipo de proyectos y políticas públicas que procuran tanto el respeto como la aceptación de las diferentes culturas, en lugar de la asimilación, que es omitir y disolver la diversidad cultural para integrar la cultura del pueblo dominante.

Hey Voter!

Start the voting process now for the November 5 General Election.

NOW – October 21: Register to vote online or by mail through October 21. Complete or download an application at **mi.gov/vote.**

Starting October 22 through 8 p.m. on Election Day: Register to vote at your city or township clerk's office or satellite office with proof of residency.

It only takes two minutes. Register today!

& Request your absentee ballot online now at mi.gov/vote, or call or visit your city or township clerk.

If you're voting from home, we recommend requesting your ballot by October 15 to give yourself enough time to receive, complete, and return the ballot to your local clerk by 8 p.m. on Election Day.*

**If you're serving in the military or living overseas, your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day (November 5) and received by November 11 to count.*

Your community depends on you to vote.
Learn more about your voting options at: **MichiganVoting.org**

Diles que lo Viste en *EL CENTRAL*

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OFFICIAL SLATE OF SPANISH SPEAKING DEMOCRATS

This slate was created after personal interviews and a review of the public records of all candidates listed. We recommend you support these candidates in the November 5, 2024 General Election. Esta Candidatura fue desarrollada con entrevista personales y revisando los expedientes publicos de los candidatos. Le recomendamos apoyar a los siguientes candidatos en la Eleccion General el 5 de noviembre de 2024.

PARTISAN SECTION / SECCION PARTIDISTA

President / Presidente
Kamala Harris / Tim Walz

Representative in U.S. Senator /Representante del U.S del Senador
Elissa Slotkin

State Board of Education (vote for only 2) / Consejo de Estado de la Educacion (voten por 2)
Theodore Jones

Trustee of Michigan State University (vote for only 2) / Miembro del Consejo de Administracion / Administrador (de la Universidad Estatal de Michigan ((MSU)) (voten por 2)
Rebecca Bahar-Cook
Thomas Stallworth III

Sheriff of Wayne County / Alguacil del Condado de Wayne
Raphael Washington

NON-PARTISAN SECTION / SECCION NO PARTISDISTA

Michigan Supreme Court (Full Term) vote for on 1 / Michigan Corte Suprema (A largo plazo) voten solo por uno
Kimberly Ann Thomas

Michigan Supreme Court (Partial Term) vote for on 1 / Michigan Corte Suprema (A plazo parcial) voten solo por uno
Kyra Harris Bolden

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge (vote for only 1)
Jueses de la Corte del Circuito de Wayne (voten por 1)
Adrienne G. Scruggs

Wayne County Probate Court Judge (6 year term) (vote for only 2)
Jueses de la Corte del legalizacion de un testamento de Wayne (persona de seis anos) (voten por 2)
Macie Gaines & Ron L. Haywood

36th District Court Judge (City of Detroit) Non-Incumbents (vote for only 2) Jueses de la Corte del Distrito 36th (Ciudad de Detroit) (voten por 2)
Andrea Bradley-Baskin & Malaika Ramsey-Heath

Detroit Public Schools Community District School Board (vote for only 3) / Detroit junta escolar del distrito comunitario de escuelas publicas (voten por tres)
Victor Gibson & Toson Knight & Boyd White III

Paid for by: **SPANISH SPEAKING DEMOCRATS,** 12650 Irene Street, Southgate, MI 48195